UNITED NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.7/1998/PC/9
20 March 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS ACTING AS PREPARATORY BODY FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO THE FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES
Second session
Vienna, 16-20 March 1998
Agenda item 2 (c)*

PREPARATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER THE FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES AND TO PROPOSE NEW STRATEGIES, METHODS, PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES AND SPECIFIC MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

CONSIDERATION OF ELEMENTS FOR INCLUSION IN A DRAFT POLITICAL DECLARATION

Draft political declaration**

* The agenda for the session is contained in document E/CN.7/1998/PC/1.

** This document has not been edited.

V.98-51875

We, the States Members of the United Nations,

Concerned by the world's serious drug problem, having assembled at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly to consider enhanced action to tackle it in a spirit of trust and cooperation;

1. *Reaffirm* our unwavering determination and commitment to overcome the world drug problem through domestic and international strategies to reduce both the illicit supply of and demand for drugs;

2. Drugs destroy lives and communities, undermine sustainable human development and generate crime. Drugs affect all sectors of society in all countries; in particular, drug abuse affects the freedom and development of young people, the world's most valuable asset. Drugs are a great threat to the health and well-being of all mankind, the independence of States, democracy, the stability of nations, the structure of all societies, and the dignity and hope of millions of people and their families;

3. *Recognize* that action against the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility requiring an integrated and balanced approach in full conformity with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and other instruments of international law, particularly respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-intervention in internal affairs of States and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms. Convinced that the world drug problem must be addressed in a multinational setting, we call upon States which have not already done so to adhere to and fully implement the three international drug conventions. Also, we renew our commitment to adopt and enforce comprehensive national legislation and strategies to give effect to the provisions of those conventions, ensuring through periodic reviews that the strategies are effective;

4. *Reaffirm* our support for the United Nations and its drug-control organs as the global forum for international cooperation against the world drug problem, emphasizing the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the main normative body of the United Nations system to tackle the world drug problem and to guide the activities of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, and resolve to strengthen its functioning and governance and the role of the International Narcotics Control Board, in conformity with existing international treaties;

5. *Will ensure* that women and men benefit equally, and without any discrimination from strategies directed against the drug problem through their involvement in all stages of programmes and policy-making;

6. While recognizing with satisfaction the progress accomplished by States, both individually and working in concert, there is deep concern about the new social contexts in which illicit consumption, particularly of amphetamine-type stimulants, is taking place;

7. *Welcoming* the efforts of the wide range of people working in various fields against drug abuse and encouraged by the behaviour of the vast majority of youth who do not consume illegal drugs, decide to give particular attention to demand reduction, notably by investing in and working with youth through formal and informal education, information activities and other preventive measures;

8. *Affirm* our determination to allocate necessary resources to provide treatment and rehabilitation and to enable social reintegration to restore the dignity and hope of children, women and men who have become drug abusers and to fight against all aspects of the world drug problem;

9. *Call upon* the United Nations system and invite the international financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the regional development banks, to include action against the world drug problem in their work, taking into account the priorities of States;

10. *Call for* the establishment of regional or subregional mechanisms to share experiences and conclusions resulting from the implementation of national strategies where such mechanisms do not yet exist, and request the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the International Narcotics Control Board, when needed, to guide and assist in the establishment and functioning of those mechanisms, and to report on the activities of those mechanisms to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

11. *Deeply concerned* by links between illicit drug production, trafficking and involvement of terrorist groups, criminals and transnational organized crime, are resolved to strengthen our cooperation in response to these threats;

12. *Alarmed* by the growing violence resulting from links between illicit production of and illicit trafficking in arms and drugs, resolve to increase our cooperation in stemming illegal arms trafficking and to achieve concrete results in this field through appropriate measures;

13. *Call upon* our communities, especially families and educators, and their political, religious, cultural, sports, business and union leadership, non-governmental organizations and the media worldwide to actively promote a society free of drug abuse, especially by emphasizing and facilitating healthy, productive and fulfilling alternatives to illicit drug consumption, which must not become accepted as a way of life;

14. *Decide* to devote particular attention to the emerging trends in the illicit manufacture, trafficking and consumption of synthetic drugs, and call for the establishment or strengthening by 2003 of national legislation and programmes giving effect to the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and their Precursors adopted at the special session;

15. *[Decide* to devote particular attention to the measures contained in the document, "Control of Precursors", adopted at this special session, and further decide to establish 2008 as a target date for States with a view to eliminate or significantly reduce the illicit manufacture, marketing, and trafficking of psychotropic substances, including synthetic designer drugs, and the diversion of precursors;]

16. *Undertake* to make special efforts against the laundering of money linked to drug trafficking and, in that context, emphasize the importance of strengthening international, regional and subregional cooperation, and recommend that States that have not yet done so adopt by 2003 national money-laundering legislation and programmes in accordance with relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, as well as the measures contained in the document on countering money-laundering adopted at the special session;

17. *Undertake* to promote multilateral, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation among judicial and law enforcement authorities to deal with criminal organizations involved in drug offences and related criminal activities, in accordance with the document entitled "Measures to promote judicial cooperation" adopted at the special session, and encourage States to review by 2003 the implementation of those measures requiring improvement;

18. *Recognizing* that demand reduction is an indispensable pillar in the global approach to counter the world drug problem, commit ourselves to introduce in our national programmes and strategies the provisions set out in the "Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction", to work closely with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to develop action-oriented strategies to assist in the

implementation of the Declaration, and to establish 2003 as a target date for new or enhanced drug demand reduction strategies and programmes set up in close collaboration with public health, social welfare and law enforcement authorities and commit ourselves to achieve significant and measurable results in field of demand reduction by the year 2008;

19. *Reaffirm* the need for a comprehensive approach towards the elimination of illicit narcotic crops in line with the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and Alternative Development adopted at this special session. Stress the special importance of cooperation in alternative development, including a better integration of the most vulnerable sectors involved in the illicit drug market into legal and viable economic activities. Emphasize the need for eradication programmes and law enforcement measures to counter illicit cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking, paying special attention to the protection of the environment. In this regard, endorses the initiative of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in the field of alternative development;

20. *Welcome* the United Nations International Drug Control Programme's global approach to the elimination of illicit crops and commit ourselves to working closely with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to develop strategies with a view to eliminate or significantly reduce the illicit cultivation of the coca bush, the cannabis plant and the opium poppy by 2008. We affirm our determination to mobilize international support for our efforts to achieve these goals;

21. *Call upon* all States to take into account the outcome of this special session when formulating national strategies and programmes, to report biennially to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on their efforts to meet these goals and targets for 2003 and 2008, and request the Commission to analyse these reports in order to enhance the cooperative effort to combat the world drug problem;

22. These are new and serious promises which will be difficult to achieve, but we are resolved that our commitment will be met by practical action and resources needed to ensure real and measurable results;

23. Together we can meet this challenge.

Definitions: For the purpose of this political declaration, the following expressions are used:

World Drug Problem: Illicit cultivation, production, manufacture, sale, demand, trafficking and distributions of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including amphetamine type-stimulants and precursors, and related criminal activities]

The international drug control conventions: Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.